

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 COME-00 CTME-00 TRSE-00 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6040

UNCLAS BELGRADE 2517

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: BPRO, YO

SUBJ: RECIPROCITY IN CUSTOMS TREATMENT OF FOREIGN COMPANIES

REF: STATE 36613

1. GENERAL ELECTRIC CO HAS RECENTLY APPROACHED EMBASSY REGARDING ITS REQUEST TO IMPORT DUTY-FREE A CAR FOR ITS REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN BELGRADE. THE YUGOSLAV CUSTOMS OFFICE HAS INFORMED THE OFFICE MANAGER WHO IS A YUGOSLAV CITIZEN AND WOULD BE USING THE CAR ON OFFICIAL COMPANY BUSINESS THAT THE CAR CAN BE IMPORTED DUTY-FREE PROVIDED THAT THE U.S. EMBASSY GIVES A STATEMENT OF RECIPROCAL CUSTOMS TREATMENT FOR YUGOSLAV COMPANIES OPERATING IN THE UNITED STATES. UNDER YUGOSLAV LAW THE FOREIGN COMPANY IS ALSO REQUIRED TO POST A BOND OR PRESENT A BANK GUARANTEE FOR THE PAYMENT OF CUSTOMS DUTIES IN THE EVENT THAT THE FOREIGN COMPANY IS ALSO REQUIRED TO POST A BOND OR PRESENT A BANK GUARANTEE FOR THE PAYMENT OF CUSTOMS DUTIES IN THE EVENT THAT THE CAR IS SOLD ILLEGALLY TO ANOTHER PERSON WITHOUT DUTY-FREE STATUS. PERMITS FOR DUTY-FREE IMPORTATION ARE ISSUED WITH A ONE YEAR VALIDITY BUT THERE IS PROVISION FOR RENEWAL ANNUALLY.

2. REFTEL INDICATED THAT DUTY-FREE TREATMENT OF OFFICE EQUIPMENT CAN BE GRANTED UNDER U.S. CUSTOMS LAW DEPENDING ON THE VISA OF THE FOREIGN NATIONAL. IS THERE ALSO A PROVISION IN U.S.

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CUSTOMS LAW WHICH PERMITS FOREIGN COMPANIES, REGARDLESS OF THE NATIONALITY OF THE EMPLOYEES, TO IMPORT TEMPORARILY OFFICE EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING AUTOMOBILES FOR OFFICIAL BUSINESS USE, WITHOUT PAYMENT OF CUSTOMS? ALTERNATIVELY, IS IT POSSIBLE FOR A US CITIZEN, WHO IS A BONA-FIDE FOREIGN RESIDENT AND IS ON TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT TO THE UNITED STATES WITH A FOREIGN COMPANY, TO IMPORT DUTY-FREE HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND/OR OFFICE

EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING EITHER A PERSONAL OR COMPANY AUTOMOBILE?
(THOUGH A YUGOSLAV CITIZEN, GENERAL ELECTRIC OFFICE MANAGER
MAY BE CONSIDERED A FOREIGN RESIDENT SINCE HE IS ON ASSIGNMENT
FROM G.E.'S OFFICE IN VIENNA).

3. G.E. HAS PREPARED ALL DOCUMENTS FOR IMPORTATION OF AUTOMOBILE
AND ONLY NEEDS EMBASSY STATEMENT OF CUSTOMS RECIPROCITY
BEFORE SUBMITTING REQUEST. POST WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION
ASAP.

EAGLEBURGER

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